

FACT SHEET 07

FORK LIFT TRUCKS AND THE USE OF MOBILE PHONES

There are no specific regulations that relate to the use of mobile phones whilst operating fork lift trucks.

The use of a hand-held phone or similar hand-held device while driving on a public road is prohibited by law. A workplace environment is no less hazardous than a public road. It would therefore be good practice to ban the use of a hand-held phone or similar device whilst operating a fork lift truck.

It is generally considered that the use of a hands-free mobile phone can also be a distraction. There may be an operational reason for wishing to use a hands-free mobile phone, but this is not recommended and such use should certainly be subject to risk assessment. There are special communication systems available to assist with activities such as order picking and stock taking. Mobile phones should not be used for these types of activity.

It would be good practice to ban the use of a hands-free mobile phone for personal use whilst operating a fork lift truck.

Working Platforms. The use of non-integrated working platforms on fork lift trucks requires suitable communication between the operator of the fork lift truck and the persons on the working platform. The method of communication to be used will form part of the risk assessment, but it may be that the use of hands-free mobile phones in these circumstances is considered preferable to shouting, or the use of hand signals.

The information in this Fact Sheet has been assembled and interpreted to give truck owners and users basic guidance on frequently asked questions. Further important information will be given in the quoted reference documents. Responsibility for meeting the safety obligations discussed rests with the employer, and the FLTA will not accept liability for any problem arising as a result of the content of this document. **Technical Bulletins, containing more detailed information and updated as appropriate, are made available free to members of the FLTA SAFE USER GROUP.**

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